



3653
PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0011

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar Lee Avant et al.

) Group Art Unit: 3653

Serial No.: 09/652,707

) Examiner: Daniel K. Schlak

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR
PROCESSING MAILPIECE
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Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

GROUP 3600

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated October 2, 2002 (the time for response extended to February 3, 2003 by a three month extension of time), the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between three groups of claims: Group I containing claims 1-240, Group II containing claims 241-248, and Group III containing claims 249-262. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-240, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to methods and apparatus for processing mailpiece information.

Within Group I, the Examiner also alleged that the claims were drawn to two patentably distinct species and required restriction to either Species I, drawn to transmitting identification to a mail processing system, represented by claims 16, 29-31, 40-42, 64-66, 113-114, 116-126, 127-142, and 195-226, or Species II, drawn to updating a secondary database with information from mailpieces, represented by claims 21, 28, 32-39, 43-52, 54-63, and 67-68. Applicants respectfully traverse this election of species requirement because the Examiner has not shown that there would be any burden to examine all of the alleged species. However, to fully respond

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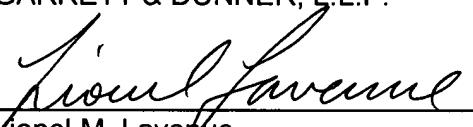
to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect with traverse Species I, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to transmitting identification to a mail processing system. The Examiner has identified that claims that are generic to both species are represented by claims 1-14, 17-19, 173-194, and 227-238.

Applicants submit herewith a Petition for Three Months Extension of Time for responding to the Restriction Requirement with the requisite fee. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 3, 2003

By: 

Lionel M. Laverne
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